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#8
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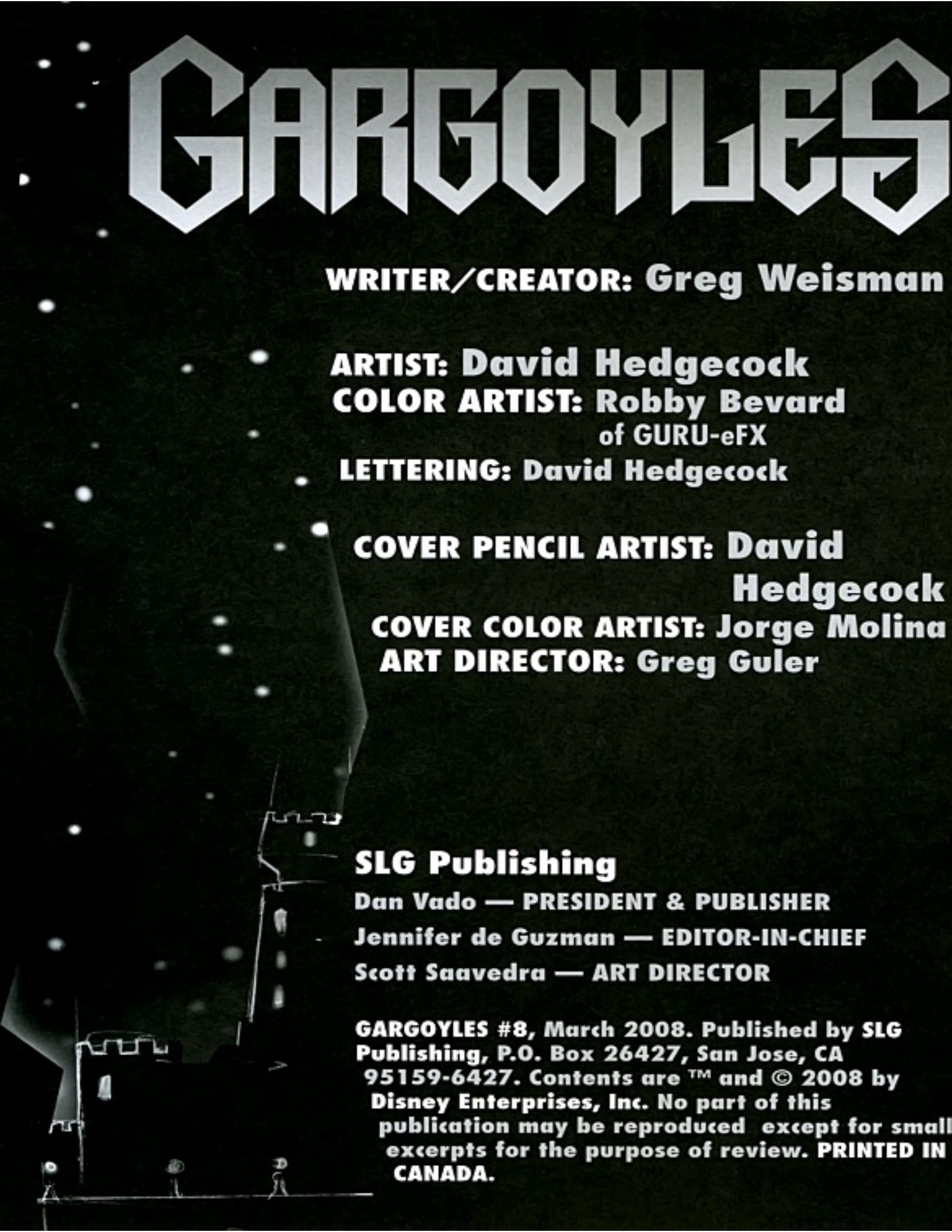
GARGOYLES
The Disney animated adventure continues!



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NOVEMBER 14, 5:40AM GMT.
WELCOME TO KNIGHT'S SPUR...
GARGOYLES
CLAN-BUILDING

CHAPTER EIGHT: ROCK & ROLL

NOVEMBER 8, 5:34AM EST.
THE STORY IS TOLD-- THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE--
"-- OF MOSES, WHO LED THE HEBREWS OUT OF EGYPT AND INTO THE DESERT...
".. BRINGING FORTH WATER FROM JACOB'S PILLOW TO QUENCH THEIR--"
YOU SAID MOSES GAVE THE STONE TO GATHELUS AND SCOTA--
--BEFORE LEADING THE HEBREWS OUT OF EGYPT!

THE STORY IS TOLD...
THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE?
RIGHT. CONTINUE.
"THE HEBREWS PASSED THE STONE DOWN THE CENTURIES..."
".. UNTIL THE PROPHET JEREMIAH OFFERED IT IN DOWRY..."
".. TO KING EOCHAID OF IRELAND WHEN HE WED TAMAR TEA TEPHI, PRINCESS OF JUDAH..."
".. EOCHAID ENSCONCED THE STONE AT TARA AND DUBBED IT LIA FÁIL."

NOVEMBER 13, 11:51PM GMT.
BY THE BLADE OF EXCALIBUR--
--WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW, MACBETH?
KING ARTHUR?!
I'M HERE TO PROTECT THE STONE OF DESTINY!
SEPTEMBER 29, 1040.
AND AS HIGH KING, I, MACBETH MAC FINDLAECH, SWEAR BY THE STONE OF DESTINY--
--TO PROTECT SCOTLAND AND TO SERVE HER PEOPLE ALL MY DAYS...
SEPTEMBER 29, 500.
AND AS HIGH KING, I, ARTHUR PENDRAGON, SWEAR BY THE STONE OF DESTINY--
--TO PROTECT BRITAIN AND TO SERVE HER PEOPLE ALL MY DAYS...
NOVEMBER 13, 11:53PM GMT.
THEN OUR TWO QUESTS ARE ONE AND THE SAME!
AYE...
THE GARGOYLES!!
THEY'LL BE AT EACH OTHERS' THROATS!!

NOVEMBER 13, 11:52PM GMT.
HUDSON! LEXINGTON! BLOODY LOVELY TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
YOU TOO, GRIFF!
AYE, LAD. THE BADDUNS'LL HAVE NO CHANCE AT THAT STONE NOW!
NOVEMBER 12, 10:00PM GMT.
BEEP

NOVEMBER 14, 5:28AM GMT.
IT'LL SOON BE DAWN...
.. YOU AND HUDSON GO WITH GRIFF
ARTHUR AND I WILL STAND VIGIL THROUGH THE DAY.
NOVEMBER 14, 7:48AM GMT.
--MORTALLY WOUNDED IN 542. SO THEY SHIPPED ME OFF TO SOME MAGIC HILL...
.. AND PUT ME TO SLEEP FOR A THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE YEARS.
SOUNDS LOVELY.
AND YOU?
DEAL WITH A DEMON IN 1040. OFFICIALLY DIED IN 1057...
.. BEEN SLEEP-WALKING FOR NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE YEARS.
...
GUESS I GOT THE BETTER BARGAIN.
ACH, I TRY NOT TO DWELL THESE DAYS...
NIGHTSTONES
NIGHTSTONES
.. SO HERE'S TO THE IMMORTALS--

"--THERE AREN'T MANY LIKE US..."
NOVEMBER 9, 5:36AM EST.
THE STORY IS TOLD-- THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE--
"--OF CU CHULLAIN, THE HERO OF ULSTER..."
".. WHO CHAMPIONED LUGAID RED-STRIPE FOR KING..."
".. BUT WHEN THE LIA FAIL WOULD NOT CRY TO CONFIRM LUGAID..."
".. CU CHULLAIN WAS ENRAGED, STRIKING WITH GAE BOLGA, THE SPEAR OF LIGHT..."
".. AND SPLITTING THE STONE OF DESTINY FOREVER!"

NOVEMBER 14, 5:33AM GMT.
ARE WE HEADED TO SOHO? GOLIATH SAID YOU HAVE A STORE THERE...
WE DO. BUT I THOUGHT I'D TAKE YOU HOME INSTEAD... TO OUR CLAN--
TO KNIGHT'S SPUR!
YOU KNOW, GRIFF, I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED TO YOUR YANK FRIENDS...
<HMPH> WATCH WHO YOU'RE CALLIN' A YANK, LASS...
WHERE ARE MY MANNERS? HUDSON, LEXINGTON...
.. THIS IS CONSTANCE.
MY FRIENDS CALL ME COCO.

AND THIS IS STAGHART.
MY FRIENDS CALL ME AMP!
NOBODY CALLS YOU AMP, LUV!
NOVEMBER 15, 12:06AM GMT.
AMP! LOOK OUT!
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
WHY DO THESE TWO LOOK LIKE GOLIATH?
LONG STORY.

THAT'S A XANATOS 'BOT!
IF YOU SAY SO.
HE MUST BE AFTER THE STONE!
WANTS IT FOR HIS COLLECTION, I IMAGINE...
.. BUT I DON'T SEE HIM UP THERE.
THE AUTOMATONS MAY BE A MERE DIVERSION.
BEST STAY ON THE ALERT...
.. PENDRAGON...?

NOVEMBER 10, 5:37AM EST.
THE STORY IS TOLD-- THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE--
"-- OF YOUNG PRINCE FERGUS OF IRELAND..."
".. WHO CARRIED HALF CU CHULLAIN'S HANDIWORK TO ARGYLL IN WHAT MEN NOW CALL SCOTLAND..."
".. TO FOUND A KINGDOM CALLED DALRIADA..."
".. THOUGH A CASTLE CALLED CARBONEK FOUND HIM INSTEAD..."
".. BRINGING THE PRIEST-KING PELLES AND THE ARCHMAGE MERLIN..."
".. AND THEIR REQUEST--"

"-- TO BORROW THE STONE OF DESTINY FOR A PURPOSE OF THEIR OWN..."
".. A PURPOSE FULFILLED IN LONDONTOWN..."
".. BY A SWORD CLEP'D EXCALIBUR..."
".. IN A STONE CLEP'D LIA FAÍL..."
".. DRAWN FORTH BY A BOY CLEP'D ARTHUR."

NOVEMBER 14, 6:32PM GMT.
LEX, GRIFF, CONSTANCE AND STAGHART SENT YOU HOME TO REST THEN...
AYE, HUDSON. WE'LL CATCH A FEW HOURS SLEEP THEN HEAD BACK OUT. BUT YOU...?
I HAD SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE PENDRAGON...
.. WEREN'T YOU ON A QUEST... TO FIND YOUR WIZARD?
INDEED. AND SIR GRIFF AND I SEARCHED FOR MERLIN... IN ALL THE OBVIOUS PLACES...
.. BUT TO NO GAIN. SO I'VE BEEN "DOING RESEARCH"...
.. ON MERLIN... AND ON MYSELF.
SO MANY BOOKS... ARE ANY OF THEM TRUE?
Le Morte D'Arthur
by Thomas Malory
ALL THINGS ARE TRUE...
.. FEW THINGS ARE ACCURATE.
AYE. NO BLOODY KIDDING.

NOVEMBER 14, 6:32PM GMT.
SO HOW BIG IS YOUR CLAN?
ONE HUNDRED NINETY-SIX GARGOLYES, RANGING IN AGE FROM OLD POG--
NOVEMBER 14, 7:20AM GMT.
NOVEMBER 14, 6:34PM GMT.
--TO LITTLE LUNETTE AND HER ROOKERY SIBS.
AND ARE THERE EGGS?
TWENTY-FIVE.
SO FEW...

WE DON'T DARE OUTGROW KNIGHT'S SPUR, SO TO KEEP OUR NUMBERS MANAGEABLE...
.. MATED COUPLES ARE ALLOWED ONLY TWO EGGS ACROSS THEIR LIFESPANS INSTEAD OF THREE.
HOW EXACTLY--
ENFORCED ISOLATION DURING THE FEMALE'S FINAL HEAT.
YIKES.
TELL ME ABOUT IT.
AND ARE YOU TWO MATES?
HA HA HA HA!
US?!! GOD, NO!!
DON'T GET ME WRONG. COCO'S MY BEST MATE.
BUT "MATES"? PLEASE.
OKAY, NEW TOPIC... I DIDN'T SEE ANY BEASTS...
BECAUSE WE HAVE NONE.

NOVEMBER 11, 5:38AM EST.
THE STORY IS TOLD-- THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE--
"--OF SAINT COLUMBA, HE WHO TAMED THE MONSTER OF LOCH NESS..."
".. BEFORE RETURNING TO THE ISLAND OF IONA..."
".. WHERE MERLIN AND PELLES HAD BROUGHT THE STONE ONCE IT HAD SERVED THEIR PURPOSES..."
".. AND WHERE COLUMBA LAID DOWN HIS HEAD UPON JACOB'S PILLOW..."
".. AND BREATHED HIS LAST."

NOVEMBER 15, 12:00AM GMT.
ANY SIGNS OF LIFE?
NAH. QUIET, BORDERING ON DULL.
I BELIEVE WE CAN RECTIFY THAT...
.. AND STILL DISPLAY NO SIGNS OF LIFE.
TAKE TO THE SKY, LADS AND LASSIE!
COLDSTEEL IS MINE!!
WELL, WELL, LOOK WHO'S BITING OFF MORE THAN OLD GUMS CAN CHEW?

NOVEMBER 15, 12:08AM GMT.
I AM PROGRAMMED TO TERMINATE ONLY IF NECESSARY...
.. ABANDON THIS AIRSPACE, AND YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED.
ZAK
ZAK
DREAM ON, YOU ELECTRIC SHEEP!
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE 'TIL WE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT XANATOS AND FOX ARE UP TO!
NOVEMBER 7, 2:41PM GMT.
LOVELY. WRAP THEM UP, PLEASE.

NOVEMBER 12, 5:39AM EST.
CHECK.
GRRRR
I'D FIRE YOU IF YOU DID.
DON'T YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?
WOULD YOU PREFER I LOST ON PURPOSE?
THE STORY IS TOLD-- THOUGH WHO CAN SAY IF IT BE TRUE--
"--OF KENNETH MACALPIN, SCION OF FERGUS..."
".. WHO UNITED THE KINDOMS OF SCOTLAND..."
".. AND WAS CROWNED HIGH KING UPON THE STONE AT SCONE..."
".. AS WOULD ALL THE HEIRS OF SCOTA-- FOR THE NEXT FOUR HUNDRED YEARS."

NOVEMBER 15, 12:09AM GMT.
PITY...
AAAHHH
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
DELIMBIFICATION!! I LIKE IT!
RIGHT-O!
WE'LL GET MACBETH TO ISSUE THESE BEAUTIES TO THE ENTIRE CLAN!
LIKE I NEED THE GUN.

KLANG
KRUNCH
KRITCH
PARADOX

YOUR HATCHLINGS SEEM TO THINK THEY INVENTED THE JOYS OF DISMEMBERMENT--
--BUT I WONDER HOW THEY'D TAKE...
.. TO THE REAL THING?
WHOOOOSH
YOU NEVER DID LEARN TO RESPECT YOUR ELDERS...

.. DID YOU, BROTHER?
ANYONE ORDER UP THE KITCHEN SINK?
TO BE CONTINUED...

Etched In Stone...

Business first as always:

• Preparations are underway for our Twelfth Annual Convention: The Gathering of the Gargoyles, June 27-30, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois. Guests include myself, Thom Adcox (voice of Lexington) and Keith David (voice of Goliath), who will also be performing his nightclub act. And let me tell you something: Keith can sing! Tickets are available now. Check out www.gatheringofthegargoyles.com.

• Stop by Ask Greg (www.s8.org/gargoyles/askgreg), where I answer questions about *Gargoyles* and about the industry, including my current gig as Supervising Producer of the new animated series *The Spectacular Spider-Man*, premiering in 2008. You can post comments and questions about the *Gargoyles* comic book there as well — and maybe see them reprinted right here at Etched in Stone!

• *Gargoyles, Season One* and *Gargoyles, Season Two, Volume One* are both currently available on DVD. Due to so-so sales, Buena Vista Home Entertainment (i.e. Disney) has not yet scheduled *Season Two, Volume Two*. (There are links to purchase both DVD sets from Amazon at ASK GREG, and note: I don't make a cent off 'em.) Whether you've bought them yet or not, please help us SPREAD THE WORD!

• By now, we hope you've picked up our first trade paperback — *Clan-Building, Volume One* — collecting issues #1-6 of our saga, with a new foreword by *ElfQuest* creator Wendy Pini. For further updates, alerts and alarms, check out Ask Greg or www.slgcomic.com.

Now, a few comments on issue #7 ("Clan-Building, Chapter Seven: The Rock"). [Note: I've edited for space and done some minor proofing.]

Phil writes...

...When I first read the story, I didn't get the point of not telling it chronologically. I enjoyed the issue and thought it might be the best one yet, but the structure was distracting and kept me from fully getting into it. However, having faith in your skills, I analyzed the issue and have come to the conclusion that you're a creative genius. Basically, the story is told in order, not chronologically, but logically, revealing to the readers what they need to know as they need to know it, and not before...

The first few pages serve two purposes: 1) to warn us right up front about the structure of the story, and 2) to hook us like a barbed fishing hook. By the end of page two we can't put the book down even if we wanted to. But by the end of page three, I was starting to wonder how this all fits together. What does Jacob's stone have to do with anything? Macbeth answers on the next page. "It's called the Stone of Destiny."

Page four begins the meat of the story. Macbeth asks the gargoyles to help protect the Stone. There's a one-panel flashback to illustrate his connection to the Stone. There's a break in the story for travel time, so page seven introduces the villain of the story. Xanatos is aware of what's going on, but he's unconcerned. We see that he's in London with his family. And speaking of family...

Gathelus and Scota are introduced and the back-story of the Stone progresses. By the end of the page, Scota is obviously pregnant. And speaking of pregnant...

Page nine advances some (not just one, but several) subplots from previous stories. Dr. Sato's presence emphasizes that the mutates are creatures of biology, and not magic. And speaking of biology...

The main story continues. We're reminded that gargoyles are biological creatures; they suffer from jetlag. Macbeth says there are ten days until the Stone is moved, which prompts a flashback to Gathelus and Scota moving the Stone. Then ten days later, Hudson and Lex are on the job. By this time we're wondering, where are the others? Page thirteen gives us an answer while advancing another subplot and setting up future Clan-Building.

Back to the main story again on page fourteen. Although everything looks secure, Macbeth's not so confident, and we see another one-panel flashback to illustrate why and to reinforce his connection to the Stone. There's another break in the action of the main story, so it's a good time for Shari to take up another page and provide more back-story. But after that we're back to London. Hudson asks, "Who exactly are we expecting?" And the answer is given. The villain part of the story is filled in with Xanatos, Coyote, and Coldsteel. At this point, some newbies might ask, who is this "Coldsteel"? Shari is right there to answer on the next page and at the same time set up some more future Clan-Building. "It's really a timeless love story..."

Which leads right into Goliath and Elisa. They've got a beautiful scene, and since Elisa doesn't vocalize everything that's in her heart we're treated to a flashback of a happily expectant couple to say what she left unsaid. He and Elisa give in to true love, but... Sometimes true love ends in tragedy. Gathelus dies, and Scota's life crumbles. Her sons carry on.

That almost wraps up the story. The only thing left is to return to Macbeth and the main plot to set up the cliffhanger that will bring us all back in two months. Make that "cliffhangers, plural," since Macbeth and Arthur would have been cliffhanger enough. But you double the suspense by bringing in the London Clan, too. Plus there are the teases back on page two that leave us anticipating more.

The non-linear structure is fascinating to me. Although everything seems to jump around randomly, each panel and page logically connects to the ones around it in thought or theme, if not chronology. That's not to say I'd want every issue to be like this; it takes a lot of thought and study to understand it all. But as an experimental or occasional format, there's a lot to like...

Greg responds...

That's not to say I'd want every issue to be like this; it takes a lot of thought and study to WRITE it all. Anyway, I love your analysis, because among other things... YOU GOT IT! All that thought, study, time, hair pulling and packages of index cards feel worth it now.

Next issue: Xanatos makes his final play for the Rock — in broad daylight when the gargoyles sleep as stone! But will the Illuminati be pleased with the end result? And what's this obsession over Fox's new shoes? Get the final pieces of our temporal puzzle in "CLAN-BUILDING, Chapter 9: Rock Of Ages."

AND... In GARGOYLES: BAD GUYS #2, the Japanese gargoyle Yama is banished from Clan Ishimura until such time as his lost honor can be restored. Truly alone for the first time in his long life, he becomes a target of the Hunter, a human who has spent her life training to destroy the gargoyle race. So when Hunter and her new teammates, Dingo & Matrix, catch up to him, Yama is offered no mercy — and a job?! It's "Redemption, Chapter 2: The Lost."

Sleep well,

Greg Weisman
February 2008

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